

SSB 6759 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services

Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the following:

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The department of early learning, the superintendent of public instruction, and thrive by five's joint early learning recommendations to the governor, and the quality education council's January 2010 recommendations to the legislature both suggested that a voluntary program of early learning should be included within the overall program of basic education. The legislature intends to examine these recommendations and Attorney General Opinion Number 8 (2009) through the development of a working group to identify and recommend a comprehensive plan.

NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) Beginning April 1, 2010, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, with assistance and support from the department of early learning, shall convene a technical working group to develop a comprehensive plan for a voluntary program of early learning. The plan shall examine the opportunities and barriers of at least two options:

(a) A program of early learning under the program of basic education; and

(b) A program of early learning as an entitlement, either statutorily or constitutionally protected.

(2) The working group shall, at a minimum, include in the plan the following recommendations for each option:

(a) Criteria for eligible children;

(b) Program standards, including, but not limited to, direct services to be provided, number of hours per school year, teacher qualifications, and transportation requirements;

(c) Performance measures;

(d) Criteria for eligible providers, specifying whether or not they may be:

(i) Approved, certified, or licensed by the department of early learning; and

(ii) Public, private, nonsectarian, or sectarian organizations;

(e) Governance responsibilities for the superintendent of public instruction and the department of early learning;

(f) Funding necessary to implement a voluntary program of early learning, including, but not limited to, early learning teachers, professional development, facilities, and technical assistance;

(g) A timeline for implementation; and

(h) The early childhood education and assistance program's role in the new program of early learning.

(3) While developing the plan, the working group shall review early learning programs in Washington state, including the early childhood education and assistance program and the federal head start program, as well as programs in other states.

(4) The working group shall be composed of:

(a) At least one representative each from the following: The department of early learning, the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the nongovernmental private-public partnership created in RCW 43.215.070, and the office of the attorney general;

(b) Two members of the early learning advisory council established in RCW 43.215.090 to be appointed by the council; and

(c) Additional stakeholders with expertise in early learning to be appointed by the early learning advisory council.

(5) The working group may convene advisory subgroups on specific topics as necessary to assure participation and input from a broad array of diverse stakeholders.

(6) The working group shall be monitored and overseen by the quality education council created in RCW 28A.290.010. The working group shall submit a progress report by July 1, 2010, and final report with the plan by November 1, 2010, to the early learning advisory council and the quality education council.

Sec. 3. RCW 43.215.090 and 2007 c 394 s 3 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The early learning advisory council is established to advise

1 the department on statewide early learning (~~((community-needs-and~~
2 ~~progress))~~) issues that would build a comprehensive system of quality
3 early learning programs and services for Washington's children and
4 families by assessing needs and the availability of services, aligning
5 resources, developing plans for data collection and professional
6 development of early childhood educators, and establishing key
7 performance measures.

8 (2) The council shall work in conjunction with the department to
9 develop a statewide early learning plan that (~~((crosses-systems-and~~
10 ~~sectors-to-promote))~~) guides the department in promoting alignment of
11 private and public sector actions, objectives, and resources, and (~~((to~~
12 ~~ensure))~~) ensuring school readiness.

13 (3) The council shall include diverse, statewide representation
14 from public, nonprofit, and for-profit entities. Its membership shall
15 reflect regional, racial, and cultural diversity to adequately
16 represent the needs of all children and families in the state.

17 (4) Council members shall serve two-year terms. However, to
18 stagger the terms of the council, the initial appointments for twelve
19 of the members shall be for one year. Once the initial one-year to
20 two-year terms expire, all subsequent terms shall be for two years,
21 with the terms expiring on June 30th of the applicable year. The terms
22 shall be staggered in such a way that, where possible, the terms of
23 members representing a specific group do not expire simultaneously.

24 (5) The council shall consist of not more than (~~((twenty-five))~~)
25 twenty-three members, as follows:

26 (a) The governor shall appoint at least one representative from
27 each of the following: The department, the office of financial
28 management, the department of social and health services, the
29 department of health, the higher education coordinating board, and the
30 state board for community and technical colleges;

31 (b) One representative from the office of the superintendent of
32 public instruction, to be appointed by the superintendent of public
33 instruction;

34 (c) The governor shall appoint (~~((at-least))~~) seven leaders in early
35 childhood education, with at least one representative with experience
36 or expertise in each of the areas such as the following (~~((areas))~~):
37 Children with disabilities, the K-12 system, family day care providers,
38 and child care centers;

1 (d) Two members of the house of representatives, one from each
2 caucus, and two members of the senate, one from each caucus, to be
3 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives and the
4 president of the senate, respectively;

5 (e) Two parents, one of whom serves on the department's parent
6 advisory council, to be appointed by the governor;

7 (f) (~~(Two))~~ One representative(~~(s))~~ of the private-public
8 partnership created in RCW 43.215.070, to be appointed by the
9 partnership board;

10 (g) One representative designated by sovereign tribal governments;
11 and

12 (h) One representative from the Washington federation of
13 independent schools.

14 (6) The council shall be cochaired by one representative of a state
15 agency and one nongovernmental member, to be elected by the council for
16 two-year terms.

17 (7) The council shall appoint two members and stakeholders with
18 expertise in early learning to sit on the technical working group
19 created in section 2, chapter . . . , Laws of 2010 (section 2 of the
20 act).

21 (8) Each member of the board shall be compensated in accordance
22 with RCW 43.03.240 and reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in
23 carrying out the duties of the board in accordance with RCW 43.03.050
24 and 43.03.060.

25 (~~(+8))~~ (9) The department shall provide staff support to the
26 council.

27 **Sec. 4.** RCW 28A.290.010 and 2009 c 548 s 114 are each amended to
28 read as follows:

29 (1) The quality education council is created to recommend and
30 inform the ongoing implementation by the legislature of an evolving
31 program of basic education and the financing necessary to support such
32 program. The council shall develop strategic recommendations on the
33 program of basic education for the common schools. The council shall
34 take into consideration the capacity report produced under RCW
35 28A.300.172 and the availability of data and progress of implementing
36 the data systems required under RCW 28A.655.210. Any recommendations
37 for modifications to the program of basic education shall be based on

1 evidence that the programs effectively support student learning. The
2 council shall update the statewide strategic recommendations every four
3 years. The recommendations of the council are intended to:

4 (a) Inform future educational policy and funding decisions of the
5 legislature and governor;

6 (b) Identify measurable goals and priorities for the educational
7 system in Washington state for a ten-year time period, including the
8 goals of basic education and ongoing strategies for coordinating
9 statewide efforts to eliminate the achievement gap and reduce student
10 dropout rates; and

11 (c) Enable the state of Washington to continue to implement an
12 evolving program of basic education.

13 (2) The council may request updates and progress reports from the
14 office of the superintendent of public instruction, the state board of
15 education, the professional educator standards board, and the
16 department of early learning on the work of the agencies as well as
17 educational working groups established by the legislature.

18 (3) The chair of the council shall be selected from the
19 councilmembers. The council shall be composed of the following
20 members:

21 (a) Four members of the house of representatives, with two members
22 representing each of the major caucuses and appointed by the speaker of
23 the house of representatives;

24 (b) Four members of the senate, with two members representing each
25 of the major caucuses and appointed by the president of the senate; and

26 (c) One representative each from the office of the governor, office
27 of the superintendent of public instruction, state board of education,
28 professional educator standards board, and department of early
29 learning.

30 (4) In the 2009 fiscal year, the council shall meet as often as
31 necessary as determined by the chair. In subsequent years, the council
32 shall meet no more than four times a year.

33 (5)(a) The council shall submit an initial report to the governor
34 and the legislature by January 1, 2010, detailing its recommendations,
35 including recommendations for resolving issues or decisions requiring
36 legislative action during the 2010 legislative session, and
37 recommendations for any funding necessary to continue development and
38 implementation of chapter 548, Laws of 2009.

1 (b) The initial report shall, at a minimum, include:

2 (i) Consideration of how to establish a statewide beginning teacher
3 mentoring and support system;

4 (ii) Recommendations for a program of early learning for at-risk
5 children;

6 (iii) A recommended schedule for the concurrent phase-in of the
7 changes to the instructional program of basic education and the
8 implementation of the funding formulas and allocations to support the
9 new instructional program of basic education as established under
10 chapter 548, Laws of 2009. The phase-in schedule shall have full
11 implementation completed by September 1, 2018; and

12 (iv) A recommended schedule for phased-in implementation of the new
13 distribution formula for allocating state funds to school districts for
14 the transportation of students to and from school, with phase-in
15 beginning no later than September 1, 2013.

16 (6) The council shall submit a report to the legislature by January
17 1, 2011, detailing its recommendations for a comprehensive plan for a
18 voluntary program of early learning. Before submitting the report, the
19 council shall seek input from the early learning advisory council
20 created in RCW 43.215.090.

21 (7) The council shall be staffed by the office of the
22 superintendent of public instruction and the office of financial
23 management. Additional staff support shall be provided by the state
24 entities with representatives on the ~~((committee))~~ council. Senate
25 committee services and the house of representatives office of program
26 research may provide additional staff support.

27 ~~((+7))~~ (8) Legislative members of the council shall serve without
28 additional compensation but may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
29 accordance with RCW 44.04.120 while attending sessions of the council
30 or on official business authorized by the council. Nonlegislative
31 members of the council may be reimbursed for travel expenses in
32 accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

33 NEW SECTION. Sec. 5. This act is necessary for the immediate
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
35 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
36 immediately."

1 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Makes a technical correction to a reference to the Quality Education Council.

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